

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Docket Number (Optional)

FUJS 20.759 (100794-00510)

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on _____

Signature _____

Typed or printed name _____

Application Number

10/729,817

Filed

December 5, 2003

First Named Inventor

Katsuaki Akama

Art Unit

3621

Examiner

Evens J. Augustin

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

/Dexter T. Chang/

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest.

See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.
(Form PTO/SB/96)

Dexter T. Chang

Signature

Typed or printed name

☒ attorney or agent of record.

Registration number 44071

(212) 940-6384

Telephone number

☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.

Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

November 17, 2010

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required.
Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☒ *Total of 1 forms are submitted.

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9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Attorney Docket No.: FUJS 20.759 (100794-00510)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Katsuaki AKAMA
Confirmation No.: 2105
Serial No.: 10/729,817
Filed: December 5, 2003
Title: ELECTRONIC TRANSACTION METHOD ...
Examiner: Evens J. Augustin
Group Art Unit: 3621

November 17, 2010

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

SIR:

In connection with the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review submitted herewith and in response to the final Office Action dated August 17, 2010, Applicant requests a panel review to determine whether the Examiner has failed to properly establish bases for a § 103 rejection of pending claims 1, 3-9, 13-16, and 28 in the subject application. And, in support thereof, Applicant respectfully submits the following:

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 10-12 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-9, and 13-28 remain pending in the application, of which claims 17-27 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 3-9, 13-16, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,855,007 to Jovivic et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,497,360 to Schulze, Jr. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Jovivic et al. merely describe

“After the transaction is recorded, the Internet Coupon Server 124 notifies the transaction 512 over the Internet Coupon ICNC gateway to the coupon owner’s ICNC 134 by first sending customer’s name 320, then customer’s identification number 322 and then the current coupon serial number 318.” Col. 9, lines 23-28 of Jovivic et al.

That is, Jovivic et al. only describe sending customer’s name 320 and so on. The Examiner conceded that Jovivic et al. fail to disclose ownership of an electronic coupon being transferred, and relied upon Schulze, Jr. as a combining reference that allegedly suggests such a feature. Page 4, lines 1-6 of the Office Action.

But, as Applicant demonstrated in the previous Response, Schulze, Jr. only describes reconciliation after coupon redemption and not actual ownership transfer between potential users of the coupon:

“Prior to or concurrent with payment to the retailer, ownership of such redeemed coupons is transferred from the retailer to the coupon verification personnel.” Col. 3, lines 53-55 of Schulze, Jr.

That is, Schulze, Jr. merely describes a redeemed coupon going from a retailer to coupon verification personnel.

Therefore, Schulze, Jr. is totally silent about changing ownership of an electronic coupon from one information terminal to another information terminal and the corresponding change in owner identification information, as claimed.

In response to Applicant's arguments, the Examiner maintained that Schulze, Jr. adequately suggested the claimed invention:

"However, Schulze describes an invention that relates to systems for accurately tracking the use of coupons redeemed by consumers, and for promptly reimbursing retailers for discounts extended to consumers in exchange for coupons presented to the retailer. According to Schulze, ownership of a coupon is transferred from entity to the next (C3, L53-57)." Page 6, lines 13-16 of the Office Action. (Emphasis added)

But as Applicant emphasizes above, Schulze, Jr. only describes reimbursing a retailer for coupons that have already been redeemed at the retailer. The coupon retains no value for ownership. And thus, the "ownership" being transferred back to coupon verification personnel merely refers to a physical transfer to expire the coupon, and not an ownership transfer to another entity that would be able to use the coupon:

"At step 524, the coupon verification personnel retrieve the redeemed coupons from the secure storage container, and enter coupon identifying information into the coupon redemption subsystem 104. The identifying information may be entered into the coupon redemption subsystem 104 by reading information from the coupons using the scanner 336 or a coupon reader that might be controlled to destroy (e.g. shredding), or otherwise render unuseable, the coupon after it has been verified or accepted. Alternatively, identifying information may be entered manually, such as by using the keyboard 340. Information may be stored in the storage 304, and may include all of the identifying information encoded on the coupon, such as the face value, the product the coupon applies to, the expiration date of the coupon and information concerning the distribution method and/or recipient of the coupon."

Thus, the "ownership" transfer described in Schulze, Jr. only refers to a transfer of physical coupons between a retailer, at which the physical coupons have been redeemed, and

the third party verifier that verifies the coupons and reimburses the retailer. The only identification information in relation to the coupon is entered once at this verification, after which the coupon may be "destroyed" or "otherwise rendered unuseable." Schulze, Jr. only describe storing identifying information for redeemed coupons in the storage 304, and does not disclose or suggest any changes to the stored information of a particular coupon that has already been redeemed.

Accordingly, Schulze, Jr.—and correspondingly, the proposed combination of references—only describes recording information for a redeemed coupon and fails to disclose or suggest the claimed features in connection with changing identification information for an ownership transfer of a coupon.

In other words, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Jovicic et al. and Schulze, Jr., such a combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest,

“[a]n electronic transaction method using an electronic coupon in an electronic transaction system comprising an electronic shop server opening an electronic shop site on Internet to operate and manage said electronic shop site, a coupon issuance/management server, which has a transfer management memory, issuing and managing an electronic coupon having pecuniary value information usable in a settlement of an electronic transaction for said electronic shop site, and a plurality of information terminals individually operable to access to said electronic shop and to access each other to carry out an electronic transaction. said electronic transaction method comprising:

requesting said coupon issuance/management server to issue said electronic coupon from one of said information terminals;

issuing, to said requesting information terminal having requested said electronic coupon by said coupon issuance/management server, said electronic coupon having said pecuniary value information and owner identification information related to said requesting information terminal;

recording and managing, by said coupon issuance/management server, said owner identification

information of said electronic coupon as coupon management information in the transfer management memory; and *changing, when said requesting information terminal transfers said electronic coupon to another information terminal, said owner identification information recorded in said transfer management memory from the owner identification information of said requesting information terminal to owner identification information of said another information terminal* by said coupon issuance/management server,” as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, together with claims 3-9, 13-16, and 28 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Jovicic et al. and Schulze, Jr., separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

/Dexter T. Chang/

Dexter T. Chang

Reg. No. 44,071

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
Telephone: (212) 940-6384
Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987
Docket No.: FUJS 20.759 (100794-00510)
DTC:tb